

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061340

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 61340 ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA
MADRAS DACCA ISLAMABAD MAR 13.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061340

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN, BD, PK, US

SUBJECT: CALL BY INDIAN DCM: TARAPUR, PL 480 AND SOUTH
ASIA DEVELOPMENTS

1. INDIAN DCM VENKATESWARAN, ACCOMPANIED BY FIRST SECRETARY
RAJAN, CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS MARCH 11,
BROWN (NEA/INS) SAT IN.

2. INDO-U.S. RELATIONS: VENKATESWARAN INFORMED DUBS THAT
GOI DOES NOT INTEND AT THIS TIME TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY
AS PARTY TO NRC HEARINGS ON NUCLEAR FUEL FOR TARAPUR. GOI,
HOWEVER, WOULD BE SENDING AN AIDE MEMOIRE AND MEMORANDUM
TO THE DEPARTMENT SETTING FORTH VIEWS ON POINTS THAT HAD
BEEN RAISED WITH REGARD TO THE PETITIONS BEFORE THE NRC.
THE GOI WOULD THEN LEAVE IT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND TO GOI'S
COMMERCIAL AGENT (EDLOW) TO REPRESENT GOI INTERESTS BEFORE
THE NRC. SPEAKING ON A "PERSONAL BASIS," VENKATESWARAN
NOTED THAT INDIA IS THE LARGEST CASH CUSTOMER FOR U.S.
WHEAT AND THAT THE GOI'S PURCHASES FROM THE U.S. WOULD
INEVITABLY BE AFFECTED WERE THE USG TO DISAPPROVE TITLE I
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PL 480 PROGRAM. VENKATESWARAN UNDERLINED THE KEY IMPORTANCE

TO INDO-U.S. RELATIONS OF U.S. ACTION ON NUCLEAR FUEL TO TARAPUR AND TITLE I PL 480 PROGRAMS. DUBS SAID WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE VIEWS OF THE GOI AND THAT THESE VIEWS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NRC HEARINGS. DUBS COMMENTED THAT THE POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ON THE SHIPMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL TO INDIA WAS CLEARLY SET FORTH IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S COMMENTS BEFORE THE SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ON MARCH 9. DUBS ALSO NOTED THAT THE VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AT THE NRC HEARINGS.

3. INDO-BANGLADESH RELATIONS: VENKATESWARAN RAISED RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY BANGLADESH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ABBAS AND NOTED THAT ABBAS HAD DISCUSSED FARAKKA BARRAGE ISSUE WITH INDIAN AMBASSADOR KAUL DURING A LUNCHEON. ACCORDING TO VENKATESWARAN, ABBAS AND KAUL AGREED THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. DUBS NOTED THAT WE WERE AWARE OF THIS COMPLEX ISSUE AND HOPED THAT THE MATTER COULD BE RESOLVED IN AN EQUITABLE AND EXPEDITIOUS WAY. THE USG BELIEVED THAT THE ISSUE WAS BEST RESOLVED BY THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

4. U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONS: VENKATESWARAN INQUIRED WHETHER THE RECENT MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO AND SECRETARY KISSINGER IN NYC HAD RESULTED IN ANY DECISIONS ON ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN. DUBS RESPONDED THAT THE DISCUSSION HAD BEEN BROAD AND GENERAL AND THAT NO SPECIFIC DECISIONS ON ARMS SALES HAD EMANATED FROM THAT CONVERSATION. KISSINGER
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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